

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 580

By Lollar

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the owners and employees of Davenport Towing for meritorious service to the State of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to salute those businesses that, out of their success and prosperity, give back to their communities, providing hope for their fellow man and standing as exemplars of honorable and ethical business practices; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy company is Davenport Towing of Memphis, which has been the frontrunner in a number of community service projects during their years of business; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, J.B. Davenport and Davenport Towing come to the aid of a federal program designed to deliver a quarter of a million pounds of cheese to needy families in Memphis; when the federal government had no way to store and keep the cheese, Davenport Towing offered their services, supplying a tractor, a reefer trailer, a Davenport employee, and enough fuel to keep their equipment running; and

WHEREAS, in February of 1982, Davenport Towing was called to work at a tractor-trailer wreck in which the wrecked trailer was loaded with produce; when the produce went unclaimed, the Davenports went through the proper channels to get the produce released by federal agencies, to no avail; and

WHEREAS, after several days of receiving no assistance from federal agencies, the people of Davenport Towing, realizing the produce would soon rot, turned a blind eye to the Salvation Army, church missions, and other non-profit groups who stopped by and loaded up food; though they realized the repercussions could possibly be severe, they decided it would be

more gratifying to feed the less fortunate people in their community than to fear the consequences; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s, Davenport employees volunteered their time to help the Red Cross sort and distribute fruit baskets for elderly people and low-income families in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, when John Freeman contacted the company and asked if they would help with Operation Happy Christmas, the people at Davenport did not hesitate before agreeing to lend their services; partnering with Operation Happy Christmas, Davenport Towing helped provide food baskets to needy families, generously supplying and operating fork lifts to move the goods at no cost to the charitable organization; and

WHEREAS, Davenport Towing has many times picked up vehicles from salvage yards and delivered them to local volunteer fire departments to use in the training of their volunteers; after training is complete, the Davenports return the cars to the salvage yard for free; and

WHEREAS, always active in some civic capacity and never ceasing to lend their services to the people of their community, the Davenport family has cooked for multiple charitable organizations, most recently cooking for A.C. Wharton's Charity Golf Tournament for Klondike Elementary; soon, they will be cooking for the Bartlett Community Catfish Fry for their fourth consecutive year; and

WHEREAS, a company based on family principles of the highest quality, Davenport Towing has rendered sterling service as a community leader, offering assistance in response to a wide spectrum of needs, always striving to treat their fellow man with dignity and respect and judging no one based on his or her individual situation; and

WHEREAS, true to this tenet, the Davenports have purchased tickets for stranded motorists, enabling them to return to their homes; procured hotel accommodations for those without a place to stay for the night; purchased meals for hungry travelers and their pets; provided vehicles and manpower to various school career days; and sponsored numerous children's baseball, softball, and soccer teams; and

WHEREAS, the selfless and estimable people of Davenport Towing who so gracefully serve their community include Aubrey Davenport, Rena McDonald, Harry "Slick" McDonald, Becky Davenport Sebek, John Sebek, Dwayne Harris, Shotgun Harris, and Amber Harris; and

WHEREAS, businesses such as Davenport Towing bring great pride to their community and to the citizens of this Great State, allowing Tennessee to proudly wear the moniker of the "Volunteer State," and this exceptional company should be specially praised for its tireless work; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the owners and employees of Davenport Towing for meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, thank them for never failing to look out for their fellow man, and extend to them our best wishes for every success in all their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.